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Eastern Illinois University

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WEEKEND ISSUE

Check out this weekend's edition of the Verge!

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BEAT THE BILIKENS

The Eastern women's basketball team travels to St. Louis to face the Bilikens for a non-conference matchup.

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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Friday, Nov. 15, 2013

"TELL THE TRUTH AND DON'T BE AFRAID"

VOL. 98 | ISSUE 64



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Molly Ringwald performs "On The Street Where You Live" by Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner with the EIU Jazz Lab Band Thursday at the Dvorak Concert Hall of the Doudna Fine Arts Center. Ringwald and her pianist and musical director Peter Smith also performed "Exactly Like You" by Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields and "I Get Along Without You Very Well" by Hoagy Carmichael.

Molly Ringwald unites with Jazz Lab

By Marcus Curtis

Entertainment Editor | @DEN_News

Eastern's Jazz Lab Band teamed up with jazz artist and actress Molly Ringwald for a musical performance Thursday in the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

The Jazz Lab Band, which totaled 17 students, flooded the stage in the Dvorak Concert Hall to display their talents under the instruction of Paul Johnston, a music professor and conductor.

"(Dvorak Concert Hall) rivals Disney Hall and Carnegie Hall. The acoustics are amazing."

Molly Ringwald, actress, singer, author

Thursday night's performance from the band featured Wednesday night's special performer, Ringwald. Ringwald returned to Dvorak for a second night to

assist the Jazz Lab Band, lending her vocals to the band and matching up with their instruments.

Among the highlights in the

band's performance was the recital of "Oblivion," originally composed by Astor Piazzolla and arranged by Bob Curnrow.

Ben West, a music major, led the band with his trumpet performance, at times bringing the audience to applaud in the middle of the sets. West played the trumpet with great emotion.

JAZZ, page 5

Board to vote on 2014-15 housing, tuition rates

Staff Report

@DEN_NEWS

Tuition rates for the 2015 school year will be voted on at Eastern's Board of Trustees meeting Friday.

The university's current proposal recommends no increases in per-semester-hour costs for any Eastern students in 2014-15, regardless of their status as an Illinois resident.

While such costs have seen a very moderate increase since 2012, when each semester hour cost \$269, the university has decided to keep the current rate of \$283 for the 2014-15 school year.

The Board will also vote on recommendations for housing and dining rates for the next school year, for which the university is recommending no increases across the board.

The board will also discuss new requirements of the university, as specified by the Illinois Open Access to Research Articles Act. The Act requires all public universities in Illinois to establish a task force to design policy for all scholarly articles produced at each university.

According to the bill, the chairperson of each university's Board of Trustees is responsible for appointing the task force, which will then review and report on the university's open access policy by Jan. 1, 2015.

The board will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Martin Luther King, Jr. University Union.

Professor, students receive grants to research biomass options

By Olivia S. Diggs

Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

The Center for Clean Energy Research and Education is fuelled by wood chips, but could there be a better, more sustainable energy source, such as corn stover, or even switchgrass? This is exactly what Peter Ping Liu and his students will be setting out to find.

Liu, the director of the Renewable Energy Center and current coordinator of the Masters of Science in Renewable Energy graduate program, has been awarded three grants to further his biomass research, which includes plant materials and animal waste used especially as a source of fuel.

These grants will help to continue research on renewable energy projects at Eastern and at the University of Illinois at the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Liu is the recipient of a National Science Foundation grant worth \$197,000, and two grants from the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center for a total of about \$27,000.

The NSF project is titled "Enhancing Undergraduate Education Through Student-Led Research in Biomass Renewable Energy."

This grant will go toward bio mass education and the purchase of equipment.

"The main theme is to empower students to be engaged and to lead their research efforts in biomass renewable energy," Liu said.

"The main theme is to empower students to be engaged and to lead their research efforts in biomass renewable energy."

Peter Ping Lau, Renewable Energy Center director

The undergraduate-and-graduate students at Eastern will have a better opportunity to be engaged and encourage them to make decisions and take ownership in the research process.

The students will pick what they research so they can best motivate themselves.

The students will be evaluating different biomass options and figuring out what will be best for the Renewable Energy Center focusing on resources found in the Midwest region.

Currently the Renewable Energy Center

runs on woodchips. A few alternatives being examined include corn stover, a mixture of leaves, stocks and cobs left over from harvest-ing corn, switch grass and miscanthus grass.

These products are all native to the Illinois area.

With the vast forest area in southern Illinois, woodchips are a good idea, but it is possible that there is an alternative biomass solution that could be better or comparable to the current woodchips, Liu said.

The research will be to figure out if any other biomass option will be better or comparable to the current woodchip option.

The biomass options used are also based on the area where the renewable energy will be used. For instance, distilled grain would be a

good option for Alaska.

The first ISC project titled, "Evaluate Feasibility of Sustainable and Economical Utilization of Biomass Gasification Byproducts," will be working on the utilization of ash for construction materials.

At Eastern, students will be working on research for replacing some or all of the cement in concrete. Ash is the byproduct, or what is left over, that comes from burning the woodchips, and instead of getting rid of it, research will be done to see what it can be useful for.

At U of I, research will be carried out to use ash to replace some or all of the shale in brick.


The concrete and cement will need to be comparable, just as strong, or stronger than concrete and bricks as they are made today to be useful.

The second ISC project is aimed at a gasification study on pellets of switchgrass, miscanthus, big bluestem prairie grass and cordgrass. Grants will be used to research pallets of grasses native to Illinois, and study their uses, Liu said.

OPTIONS, page 5


Local weather

TODAY



Mostly Sunny
High: 55°
Low: 42°

SATURDAY



Overcast
High: 65°
Low: 54°

For more weather visit castle.eiu.edu/weather.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

"Tell the truth and don't be afraid."

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CAT to showcase play by former professor

By Michael Spencer
City Editor | [@tmskeeper](https://twitter.com/tmskeeper)

The Charleston Alley Theatre's newest production, "A Wayward Spirit" will open Friday.

Lucina Gabbard, a former Eastern English professor, wrote the play.

Gabbard taught at Eastern in the 1960s when her husband E. Glendon "Gabby" Gabbard started the theater department for the university. Previously, the department was a part of the speech communications department when Gabby Gabbard broke it into two pieces in 1964.

The Green Room at the Doudna Fine Arts Center is named after Gabby Gabbard because of his instrumental role in establishing the program.

The play is set in a small Midwest town where Katy Masters, played by Linda Bagger, is living an unremarkable life with her husband Fred, played by Linda's husband Duke.

The couple is pulled out of their mundane lives when Katy's former lover Paul Spencer, played by Thomas MacMullen, returns from the dead as a ghost. However, only Katy can see or hear him. Paul is everything Fred is not, exciting, romantic and spontaneous. Katy's daughter, played by Cody Hutchinson, wants



PHOTO COURTESY OF THOMAS MACMULLEUN

(Left to right) Duke Bagger, Linda Bagger, Cindi Switzer Bedell, Cody Hutchinson and Cate Borzi rehearse for "A Wayward Spirit" Saturday at the Charleston Alley Theatre, 718 Monroe St. "A Wayward Spirit" is directed by Cindi Switzer Bedell and begins showing on 7:30 p.m. Friday.

her committed to an asylum while Katy herself decides she wants to be with Paul forever.

Duke and Linda Bagger have played opposite each other on several occasions, and frequently as husband and wife. Both said they agree their relationship helps make their performances genuine.

"It is easy because there is a certain amount of intimacy sometimes," Linda Bagger said. "Even when someone puts their hands on

you or their arm around you, it's not as comfortable when it's another person. It's easy to make it seem real."

Duke Bagger said being on stage with his wife makes it easier to perform.

"I always feel very confident when I'm on stage with her," he said. "We do have that something, that trust and intimacy with one another that really works."

For Duke Bagger, the opportu-

nity to perform Gabbard's play reminds him of the way he found his way to the Charleston area.

"The theater department at Eastern is why I came down here in 1965," he said. "I transferred down here just to be part of this brand new theater department so to be a part of such a strong Eastern history, plus to have a chance to do a local play-write, it means a great deal to us to be able to do something like that."

The Gabbards' son Krin will return to Charleston for the play and he said the opportunity to see it done in a place his family was so closely connected to was exciting.

"A Wayward Spirit' is in many ways a comedy, but it is true to my mother's profound belief in a world beyond this one," said Krin Gabbard. "I am delighted that (the) CAT is staging this extraordinary play in the town where my mother, my father, and I spent so many wonderful years."

The play opens Friday at 7:30 p.m. and will run again at the same time Saturday with a matinee scheduled for Sunday at 2:00 p.m. The show will run through Nov. 25.

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

Commerce to host 007-style fundraiser

By Chris Wasson
Staff Reporter | [@DEN_News](https://twitter.com/DEN_News)

The Unique Suites Hotel will serve as base for a night of cocktails, food and card tables, all wrapped around a James Bond theme.

The Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce will host "Casino Royale," a fundraising event at 5 p.m. Friday in the Unique Suites Hotel in Charleston.

While attendees enjoy the food and drinks, there will be music from various James Bond movies being played.

Tickets for the event cost \$50 each and include a plus one for guests wishing to embark on a James Bond experience.

Additionally, there will also multiple tables to accommodate up to eight

guests, available for \$300 and it includes four tickets for the raffle.

Guests will use their winnings to trade in for more raffle tickets to win special prizes.

Tickets for the event will be put into a raffle for cash prizes such as the grand prize of \$2,000.

Every fifth ticket drawn over the course of the night will win \$50 and every 50th ticket drawn will win \$100.

There will be more than \$5,000 in cash prizes given away during the raffle. Guests are also welcomed to play cards with tables provided for the fundraiser.

A single donation of \$20 will provide guests with a full cup of games chips that can be used for any of the game tables.

Rob Calhoun and Brad Kupiec who

are a part of the Morning Show on WEIU Radio HitMix 88.9 will provide music from the James Bond movies.

Mike Stanfield, auctioneer of the Stanfield Auction Company, will be managing the raffle drawing for the evening.

Stanfield has been part of the event before, and said money left over from the fundraiser usually will go toward the Chamber of Commerce. The money will serve as a member's benefit and will help with funds in regards to the commerce's future events, such as open houses and get-togethers for members.

Chris Wasson can be reached at 581-2812 or dennewsdesk@gmail.com.

"Casino Royale"

When: 5 p.m. Friday

Where: Unique Suites Hotel in Charleston.

Cost: \$50 per person

- Food, drinks and James Bond music will be provided.
- More than \$5,000 in cash prizes will be given away during

RHA elects secretary for spring semester

By Jarad Jarmon
Student Governance Editor | [@DEN_News](https://twitter.com/DEN_News)

The Residence Hall Association representatives tabled the new proposed budget in 2014 as well as elect the RHA secretary for spring semester.

RHA Treasurer Jordan Henderson proposed the newly redesigned budget, which will be voted on at their next meeting. Community development was removed from the budget because they only handled ROCFest so Henderson reallocated the \$250 from it and put it straight toward ROCFest.

The spring retreat was also removed because the RHA has not planned one in several years. Henderson used the money for the retreat and put it toward the RHA Homecoming item, which is a new additional item the budget.

Henderson also moved \$1,500 for the Frederick Winters show they plan and host. Winters is a hypnotist who performed at Eastern's first weekend. So far, Winters has performed each year for 11 years at Eastern.

"It helps us keep track of how we pay for that easier. We get \$1,000 scholarship from *USA Today* to help even that out," Henderson said.

Katelynn Mokry, a freshman special education and mathematics major, was elected to the position at the RHA meeting Thursday.

Mokry said she wanted to

strengthen the communication between other members, sending RHA meeting as well as other event notices periodically throughout the week. Her focus will be to plan the Camp New Hope retreat. The secretary is obligated to do as said in their constitution.

Mokry, who is currently a representative of Thomas Hall, said she believes she can handle typing the meeting minutes because of her ability to type at least 71 words per minute.

"It is rough, that is probably slower than what I usually type," Mokry said. "I am a faster typer when I have audio. It would work here because people are talking around you."

RHA Vice President Patrick Morrow also issued a reminder to those in RHA who have not been attending committee meetings. After an RHA member misses a certain amount of meetings, their voting rights get revoked. He added members should make sure to notify their advisor or chairman or chairwoman they will be absent at upcoming meetings.

There have been recent problems with committee members not meeting up for various reasons.

Jarad Jarmon can be reached at 581-2812 or jsjarmon@eiu.edu.




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2013 Panther Football



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Pizza party pizzazz



CHYNNA MILLER | DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Haley Altgilbers, a freshman music major, and Chris Fryer, a freshman music major, help run the fundraiser for the National Association for Music Education. Students are encouraged to donate by putting money in their least favorite teachers' or studios' jars. The more money students put in the jar, the more negative the points. The jar with the most points in the friendly competition receives a pizza party and the rest go toward helping the association travel to the high school Illinois Music Education Association's All State conference.

Survey says: 'EIU Feud' to commence Saturday

By **Rosie Sacco**
Staff Reporter | @DEN_News

Student Senate Academic Affairs committee with the Association of Honors Students will be hosting the "EIU Feud," a trivia bowl originally run only by the association, at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Great Hall of Pemberton Hall.

The Trivia Bowl is set up in the style of Family Feud – students will be asked questions and their answer will have to be based off what they believe is the most popular among Eastern's student body.

Shirmeen Ahmad, the chairwoman of Academic Affairs, said she wanted to reach out to other registered student organizations to help broaden student government's reach.

The categories are TV shows, music, movies, famous people, U.S. government and sports.

"We are calling it 'EIU Feud' because not only is there a category of EIU trivia questions but the answers that we are getting are from surveys that are filled out by students around campus," Ahmad said.

Students have the ability to create a team of up to 10 people.

If a student interested in the bowl cannot find a group, they will be assigned one.

A link on the Student Government's website will take the student to the online sign-up form, or they can sign up that day at the event.

"Since Association of Honors Students had an event like the one that we wanted to do, it made sense to collaborate with them," Ahmad said. "We could put on one big event together and reach out to as many people as we can to make the event successful and enjoyable for the students who are attending."

This is the second Trivia Bowl at

Eastern but the first one put together by Association of Honors Students and Student Government.

"This is the first time that Association of Honors Students and Student Government are working to put on this type of event. Association of Honors Students has had trivia nights in the past," Ahmad said.

There is a \$5 entry fee per participant that will go to the service projects the Association of Honors Students help with such as Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) in Mattoon, Teen Reach, the Charleston Food Pantry and more.

The first, second and third place teams will receive gift cards.

Teams are encouraged to dress in a fun theme.

The team dressed as the best theme and the team with the best decorated table will also win prizes.

There will be raffle tickets where participants and spectators can enter and possibly win prizes from different places in the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

Rosie Sacco can be reached at 581-2812 or racsacco@eiu.edu.



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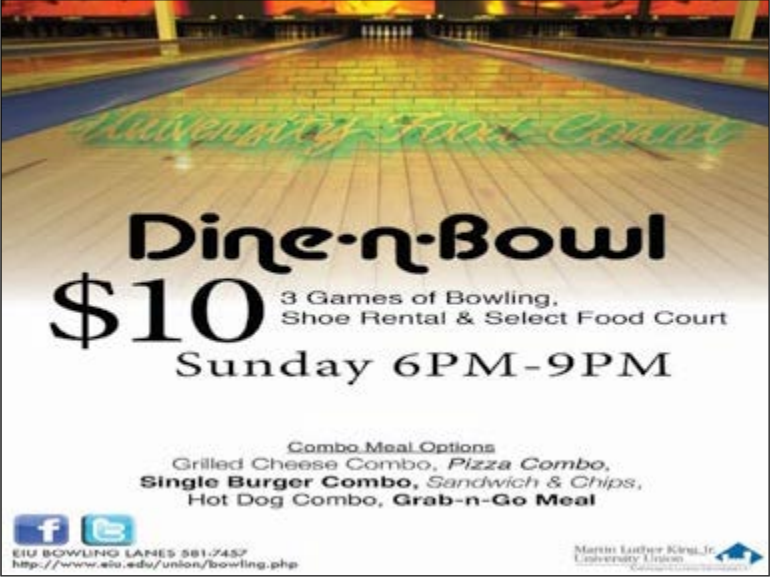
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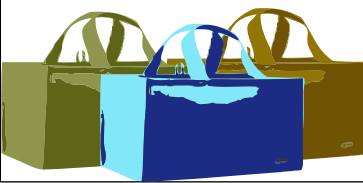
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STAFF EDITORIAL

Latest artist could provide new wave

The Doudna Fine Arts Center set the bar high by featuring Molly Ringwald as a performance Wednesday, and hopefully they can do it again when the time comes.

Ringwald, the actress from films like “The Breakfast Club” and “Pretty in Pink,” is on tour for her debut jazz album, “Except Sometimes,” and made a stop at Eastern.

Pretty cool, right?

Well, with any luck Doudna will be able to bring about the same caliber of attention-getting artists, otherwise it could spell trouble.

“An Evening With Molly Ringwald” had the Dvorak Concert Hall nearly packed with audience members to see the 1980s film actress showcase her vocal talents. By broadening the household name artists, Doudna could prove to be very successful in years to come – more than it already is.

However, if Doudna fails to deliver, the high expectations audience members have could go down, along with attendance. Despite usually having well-talented artists perform, they are only known in their circle.

With Ringwald, Doudna was able to move past just the one circle she might have been known in – jazz – and feature her in something that seeped over into other people’s interests – film.

Not every artist brought to Doudna will have that luxury however. Expectations too high will result in disappointment.

The bar has been set. Doudna needs to know that to keep people a bit more interested they need to raise the stakes just a little bit.

But on the flip side people need to be patient with Doudna. For years they have produced quality artists, despite being only known in their circle. With this new strategy of branching out to multi-faceted artists, it can reach new audiences.

Looking at the big picture, if the line-up in future years consists of a good balance of lesser-known artists outside their realm and bigger artists more well-known to different people, Doudna could become a fine arts juggernaut.

Thinking on that, don’t worry if you’re expecting a Ringwald-caliber artist every time from now on.

Doudna, it seems, is in a new era, a new wave of progression with their artists and that takes time to hit full force. For now, think ahead to the different artists Doudna currently does have the roster. See if they fit your likes, your interests. Then look ahead because the next few years could prove to be a whole new atmosphere.

Write a letter to the editor

You have something to say. Knowing this, *The Daily Eastern News* provides a place for you to say it every day.

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Today’s quote:

“The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.”

- Walt Disney

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DRAWN FROM THE EASEL



SABRINA ANN DUNCAN | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

50th ‘Mary Poppins,’ classic family-friendly movie

Walt Disney’s “Mary Poppins” is coming out of the Disney vault on Dec. 13, 2013 for its 50th anniversary.

“Mary Poppins” is a fun-filled movie and probably one of the best known non-animated Disney movies. “Mary Poppins” had its world premiere in Los Angeles on Aug. 27, 1964.

Through the last 50 years, Mary has graced the TV of millions of homes all around the world. Mary is what any child would call their “dream nanny.”

The movie is not only fun to watch and has catchy songs that stay in your head for days, it also has messages to young and old that teaches great lessons. Jane and Michael banks needed “Mary Poppins.” Although they were not bad children, they needed her to help them because they were desperate for attention. Jane and Michael chase away all their nannies “on accident.” Mary teaches the children how to do their chores in a fun way, although not realistic, and that teaches kids that they can make anything fun if they want to.

Also, how can anyone forget Bert.



Emily Provance

Bert and Mary take the kids on adventures and are kind of like stand in parents, in a sense.

As the movie progresses you can’t help but love Mary Poppins, Bert, Jane and Michael, and who can forget the laughing Uncle Albert. The movie is so entertaining, with every child who watched wanting to have a tea party while floating above a room. And of course who can forget the penguins that dance with Bert just to show off for Mary. Other unforgettable scenes from Mary Poppins would include Jane, Michael and Mary cleaning or ‘tidying up’ the nursery, the horse race with the merry-go-round horses and the ever unforgettable scene with the song “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.”

Personally, the Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious scene is my favorite, and whenever I watch “Mary Poppins” I have it stuck in my head for days.

This movie isn’t all about fun and games though, and that’s why it has survived in hearts for five decades. The movie is all about teaching family values and letting children be children.

By the time the end of the movie comes the children have taught their parents how to be parents again, the family is acting like a family and Mary Poppins is no longer needed.

The movie is a classic that won’t ever be forgotten. It is like “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang” and “Pete’s Dragon.”

The movie has survived decades because it is a great movie for people of any age. Next time you’re feeling down or in the mood for movies, blankets and junk food choose “Mary Poppins” and keep it going for future generations in decades to come.

Emily Provance is a senior journalism major. She can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

50th Built on values, bourbon is American

Smooth like jazz and as American as apple pie, bourbon settles its roots in Americana, both personally and federally.

Congress declared in 1964 bourbon as a distinctly American product and from then on has been lining the shelves of liquor stores across the country.

However, taking a closer look at bourbon as an American product, we find American ideals that can transcend over to us as a country.

Bourbon is made with corn at a minimum of 51 percent. Corn, a staple of the Midwest, finds itself at the heartland of America. So, the heartland of America makes up most of bourbon.

Produced mainly in Kentucky and sold all over the country, bourbon has become a fixture of what our country represents, and no, it’s not alcohol.

One of the more credible stories surrounding how bourbon came to be revolves around a group of immigrants coming to America and bringing it with them. This story has gained much traction and from it,



Bob Galuski

we see the details of our own history.

Settled by other immigrants – Christopher Columbus is still considered an immigrant, folks – America has had its fair share of immigration, and from it, new ideas and innovations.

Ideas and innovations drive this country. From the moment the idea for freedom crossed our forefathers’ mind to when we decided it would be a good thought to head into space, new forms of thoughts have been a staple of our country.

Without ideas America wouldn’t be the place it is now. And ideas have produced the distinct American product bourbon.

Bourbon is ever bit American as the people who live here. Despite being alcoholic and maybe looked down on it because of that, but it is what it is.

Bourbon is made from American values – there’s hard work in the distilling; patience in the fermentation; ingredients in the soil of America.

It’s something people might not think of when listing America’s greats: baseball, apple pie, fireworks and, now, bourbon.

Built on the values of America, bourbon will forever be remembered as America’s drink. This title does not belong to Budweiser, Miller or even Coors. Instead it is the drink that took what was great about America and shaped itself from it.

The drink is so engrained in our culture, that one of the biggest places to go and have fun is called Bourbon Street.

It is a drink of celebration, of history, of us.

Bob Galuski is a senior journalism major. He can be reached at 581-2812 or DENopinions@gmail.com.

CAA lacks quorum, postpones voting

NCA accreditation board debates over syllabi

By Jack Cruikshank
Staff Reporter | @DEN_NEWS

The Council of Academic Affairs lacked the required number of voting members at its meeting on Thursday, and pushed back acting upon an item until the Dec. 5 meeting.

While only seven voting members attended the meeting, eight members are required for a quorum, allowing the council to cast any votes.

The CAA was set to vote on a proposal by James Ochwa-Echel, the coordinator for the Africana Studies Program, to change the degree from a Bachelor of Science to a Bachelor of Arts.

Instead of holding the regular meeting, the council took the time to discuss some of its ongoing learning goals, some of which pertain to the on-going North Central Association (NCA) accreditation process.

Specifically, the group, which included Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, talked about sections of the third and fourth criteria for the university's learning goals.

Syllabus revision was the main topic of debate among the members present.

"I would want to know who is reviewing the syllabi," said Bonnie Irwin, the dean of the College of Arts & Humanities. "Will it be every course and every sentence?"

Irwin also brought up the point

that, at times, Eastern has offered upwards of 80 sections for a specific course, and that the syllabi for the sections vary greatly by professor.

"I like the idea of a self-guided checklist for syllabi review," Irwin said, and went on to express concerns about the amount of syllabi that a dean or department chair would have to review every semester.

Lord said the NCA accreditation board will often want to review syllabi, so it is important for all syllabi to be on file for that purpose or if a student wants to protest a certain decision within a course.

"There is nothing preventing [department] chairs from periodically reviewing or spot checking the syllabi at the department level right not," Lord said.

In the event of a student protest, Lord said it is good to have the course syllabus in order to reference about a certain assignment or class statute.

"If students are complaining about a class, it is good to go to the syllabus, and it makes future grievances clear," Lord said.

Larry White, a business professor and CAA member, brought up the idea of telling students the requirements for syllabi and allowing them to police the professors, to which one member stipulated the process would have to be more formal than the popular website ratemyprofessors.com.

The CAA will not meet next week, but will meet on Dec. 5 to vote on the Africana Studies request as well as to discuss revisions to the university learning goals.

Jack Cruikshank can be reached at 581-2812 or jdcruikshank@eiu.edu.

Room clear



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Junior cadet Antonio Romo, a junior kinesiology and sports studies major, motions for his halt before breaching a room. Cadets with Eastern's ROTC Panther Battalion went to the Charleston Police and Fire Training Facility to practice Military Operations on Urban Terrain (MOUT) Training. Senior cadets taught skills such as formations and breaching buildings, dressed up as enemy insurgents, and observed cadets as they moved through the course.

» OPTIONS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

There is a team working at U of I, and a team working at Eastern to help make these projects successful.

In regards to the Renewable Energy Center's mission, Liu said they will be hosting a Renewable Energy Research Mentorship program, in which three Charleston High School students and a science teacher join his team for research over Wednesday this semester.

Liu also said he had plans for the upcoming summer in terms of research.

"As a part of the project, we are planning to hold a Summer Teachers Institute, and a Summer Camp of High School Students in coming Summer 2014," Liu said.

Olivia S. Diggs can be reached at 581-2812 or osdiggs@eiu.edu.

» JAZZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His performance took on the role of vocals the way he mimicked the human voice with his trumpet.

Lucas Fain, a music major, contributed to West's trumpet tunes with soft and sharp scales from the piano keys to capture the sad but suspenseful feeling of the performance.

The acoustics in Dvorak made the band's performance of "Oblivion" sound crystal clear and authentic.

Despite the partially-filled concert hall, after the performance of "Oblivion" there was a thunderous round of applause from the crowd.

Ringwald took to the stage once more to guest appear on one of the Jazz Lab Band's songs. This was Ringwald's second night performing in Dvorak, and she said she was excited to perform inside the concert hall again. She also compared the acoustics to large concert halls that she has performed in.

"This place rivals Disney Hall and Carnegie Hall," she said. "The acoustics are amazing."

Ringwald said she has only performed with trios and quartets in her music career, however, she said after performing with the band of 17 students, she is considering get-

ting more experience with performing with big bands.

"I'm really thinking about doing a big band next," Ringwald said.

Ringwald's soft melodic voice projected over the sharp trumpet sounds from the members of the band, and her display of melodic pitches sent the crowd into an extended applause.

The instrumentation from the saxophones and the trombones also received recognition from the crowd in the form of applause. The mixture of the smoothness from the saxophones and the sharp pitches from the trumpets resulted in a remarkable sound in the band's performance of "The Wiggle Walk," originally composed by Benny Carter.

The majority of the other performances from the Jazz Lab Band took on the role of a melodic tune that was smooth enough to be a lullaby. Despite the slow, soft tempos the performances maintained the cool-classic jazz style throughout the night.

Marcus Curtis can be reached at 581-2812 or mlcurtis@eiu.edu.



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Women’s basketball team to take on Bilikens

By Bob Reynolds
Staff Reporter | @DEN_Sports

After losing to Indiana State on Tuesday in Lantz Arena, the Eastern women’s basketball team will try to rebound as it heads to Saint Louis University on Friday to take on the Billikens.

Saint Louis is a young team, fielding six freshmen and two sophomores out of its 12 players on the roster.

Last time out, the Billikens, defeated Valparaiso 78-56 and were led by freshman forward Erin Nelson, who scored 19 points in 37 minutes of play on 6-of-14 shooting, including 1-of-6 from 3-point range.

The Billikens, including Nelson, had four players in double-digits in Sunday’s home win against Valparaiso.

Nelson is averaging 22 points on the season and Eastern coach Debbie Black said she is going to have to put different players on Nelson to slow her down.

“We have to understand that she is their leading scoring,” Black said. “This one is particularly lopsided, unlike last game where they had two people that could score. It seems to be dominated by this kid. We have to deny her the ball back. We just have to make it tough for her.”

This will be the 10th meeting all-time between the two schools, and the first meeting since 1998.

The Panthers were in foul trouble for the second straight game Tues-

day against Indiana State.

Sabina Oroszova committed two fouls in the first seven minutes, and Black was forced to keep her on the bench for the remainder of the first half.

Black said the foul trouble seems to be a reoccurring theme.

The Panthers scored 14 of their first 18 points near the basket against Indiana State, and Black said they plan to keep feeding the ball inside.

“You can’t just rely on your perimeter game,” she said. “You have to establish the inside game. Any good coach can say inside-out is what you like.”

Oroszova posted her third career double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds and Katlyn Payne tied her career-high in points with 17, but Black said they need to get scoring from other areas.

“It is easy to take away one player,” she said. “Everyone has to contribute.”

Turnovers are still a problem for the Panthers, as they have committed 52 turnovers in the first two games of the season, 22 of which came at home after having 30 in their season opener against Evansville.

The Panthers were outscored 23-16 in points off turnovers and 20-2 in fast break points against the Sycamores.

“We have to go back to one thing that is really killing us,” Black said. “If I look at anything, it’s our turnovers. We are giving up turnovers for layups. We got to stop that. La-



JASON HOWELL | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Red-shirt junior guard Katlyn Payne looks for an open teammate against Indiana State on Tuesday in Lantz Arena. The Panthers lost to the Sycamores 53-65.

yups give every team confidence.”

The Panthers will be looking for another strong performance out of Morgan Palombizio, who Black said stepped up in the last game.

She had 11 points and was 4-of-8 shooting.

The Panthers and Billikens will tip off at 7 p.m. Friday in Chaifetz Arena.

Bob Reynolds can be reached at 581-2812 or rjreynolds@eiu.edu.

Team aims to improve defensively in offseason

By Michael Spencer
@tmskeeper | City Editor

The Eastern men’s soccer team finished its 2013 campaign with only a single victory and head coach Adam Howarth said the biggest factor was his team’s defensive performance.

“I think when you look back at the season there was a lot of close games, there were a lot of mistakes,” Howarth said. “The biggest priority for the team has to be addressing defensive issues. Conceding goals was definitely a problem for us and I think that’s going to be the biggest issue that we will need to address.”

Eastern had one of the worst goals

allowed totals in the Summit League, conceding 49 goals this season.

Only Fort Wayne allowed more goals but the Mastodons still managed to top the Panthers in their league matchup.

But it was not just how Eastern let in goals but when the goals were scored that was important, too.

Howarth’s team struggled to close out matches, giving up 5 more total goals in the second half and in overtime than were allowed in the first 45 minutes, collectively.

Some of that was because the Eastern backline was mostly comprised of inexperienced players. Howarth said the offseason will give

the coaching staff time to work with players individual and provide collegiate experience for younger players.

“I would hope that would help; another year under their belts,” Howarth said. “That would definitely help those players that play in those positions. It’s just a question of re-evaluating and reassessing everybody and seeing who can do the job moving forward.”

For Howarth, that is the biggest issue and he said he does not feel like drastic changes to Eastern’s defensive approach will not be needed.

“I think it’s just really the basics, getting back to the basics,” Howarth said. “We just need to work

with (the younger players) and their knowledge in terms of their defending.”

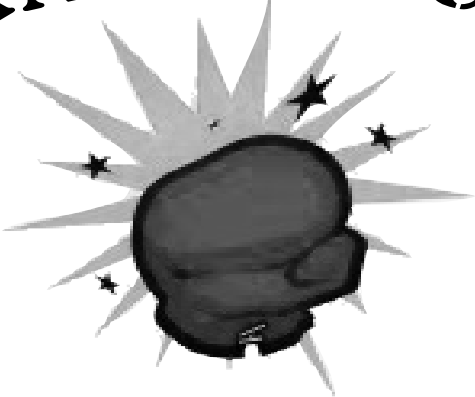
If Eastern fixes its porous backline, a productive set of attacking options will be available to score goals.

The Panthers were second-to-last in goals allowed but ranked third in goals scored with 20 and most of the players who produced those goals will be back, as well.

“The good thing is there’s a lot of players that played a lot of minutes,” Howarth said. “There’s definitely going to be some experience. There’s going to be a little bit more in the way of seniority next season so that’s

Michael Spencer can be reached at 581-2812 or tmspencer2@eiu.edu.

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» FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

“When you’re dealing with three different individuals, you may not have seen everything that they have to show on tape and there might be a quarterback that might do something that we don’t know about right now that we will find out during the game,” Babers said.

Jacksonville State leads the OVC in rushing, averaging 215.4 yards on the ground, and the Gamecocks are led by DeMarcus James who has rushed for 19 touchdowns this season — third most in the FCS.

James has punished OVC teams this season, leading the conference with an average of 117.3 yards rushing in six league games. Out

of his 19 touchdowns, James has scored 15 of them against conference teams.

Babers said the Gamecocks have the best rushing attack the Panthers have faced aside from Northern Illinois.

“I think their versatility with the different quarterbacks and with James and how physical he is makes their running game good,” he said.

James has rushed for 894 yards this season and aside from Jenkins who has more than 400 yards on the ground, Jacksonville State has another rusher with at least 400 yards rushing in Troymaine Pope (423 yards).

The Gamecocks have one more running back that could be a threat that being sophomore Miles Jones, who has 357 rushing yards.

Out of Jacksonville’s 43 touchdowns this season, 32 of them have been scored on the ground.

Kickoff is scheduled for noon Saturday at O’Brien Field, where all of the Eastern seniors will be recognized prior to the game as a part of senior day.

The game will also be available on ESPN3.com.

Aldo Soto can be reached at 581-2812 or asoto2@eiu.edu.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MURRAY STATE NEWS

Senior quarterback Jimmy Garroppolo runs into the end zone, scoring a 12-yard touchdown on Saturday in Murray, Ky. in the first quarter. Garroppolo has two rushing touchdowns and an FCS best 40-passing touchdowns this season. Eastern will play its regular season home finale against Jacksonville State at noon Saturday at O'Brien Field.

Panthers in search of outright OVC title

By Aldo Soto
Assistant Sports Editor | @AldoSoto21

The FCS playoffs begin three weeks after Eastern's regular-season home finale Saturday at O'Brien.

The Panthers have already clinched a share of the Ohio Valley Conference title, following a 37-17 win against Murray State and a spot in the postseason tournament, but do not mention the playoffs to Eastern coach Dino Babers during the next two weeks.

"Just because we have qualified for the playoffs, that's not what our football team is talking about in practice and that's not what we are talking about in these coaching offices," Babers said.

Eastern, which is 9-1 overall this

year with a perfect 6-0 record in the OVC, is focused on Jacksonville State.

"We're concerned about beating Jacksonville State," Babers said. "If we beat Jacksonville State, then we are the outright OVC champs. We are not the co-champs, we're the outright champs."

The Gamecocks have an opportunity to make the FCS playoffs, but they will need to beat Eastern Saturday and then win their season finale against Southeast Missouri to ensure the program a share of the OVC title. With a Panthers' win against Jacksonville State, the Gamecocks would have three conference losses, taking away their hopes of a share of the OVC title.

Babers, however, said that a win Saturday would help Eastern and its seed

Eastern Illinois (#2) vs. Jacksonville State (#22)

9-1, 6-0 (OVC)

8-2, 4-2 (OVC)

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entering the postseason.

"If we win, that would help us get a higher seed in the playoffs," he said. "That is not our main goal — the playoffs. Our main goal is beating Jacksonville State and winning this (conference) championship by ourselves."

When Eastern steps on its home field Saturday at noon, its defense will be prepared for not one, not two, but three Jacksonville State quarterbacks.

The Gamecocks have played Max Shortell, Kyle West and Eli Jenkins un-

der center through their first 10 games.

Although Jenkins has only attempted 59 passes in nine games, the red-shirt freshman is third on the team in rushing with 402 yards. Jenkins is also coming off a 120-yard performance against Eastern Kentucky, where he scored three touchdowns, earning him OVC Offensive Player of the Week.

Shortell and West and the more conventional quarterbacks and have combined to throw seven touch-

downs.

Babers said the coaching staff has to do the same this week that it did preparing for Murray State last week.

"Our defense needs to breakdown all three quarterbacks and break them down well to see what their specificities are if we are going to have an opportunity to win," Babers said.

The Panthers have played a couple opponents this year that have used more than one quarterback in a game, and Eastern has fared well, still undefeated in OVC play, but Babers said there is always a chance that Jacksonville State can show something during the game that the Eastern coaches have not seen.

FOOTBALL, page 7

Smith, Blanford out for Saturday's game at UIC

By Anthony Catezone
Sports Editor | @AnthonyCatz

Reggie Smith and Sherman Blanford will remain out for the Eastern men's basketball team against Illinois-Chicago, but this time, it will have more preparation without the team's two best players.

Smith suffered asthmatic-like symptoms 20 minutes before Eastern's 67-60 win over Olivet Nazarene Wednesday, forcing him to miss the game after he was taken to the hospital.

He sat out of practice Thursday so doctors could continue to search why Smith began sneezing repetitively.

It is believed to be an allergic reaction, but doctors are not entirely sure yet, Eastern coach Jay Spoonhour said.

Aside from that, Spoonhour said

Smith is feeling fine and he is just being held out until more certainty surfaces.

Meanwhile, Blanford, who injured his left ankle five minutes into the game against Olivet Nazarene, will also be out and his timetable still remains unclear.

Spoonhour said the forward is walking on his ankle just fine, but he still looks gimpy, adding Blanford will do all he can do to return as soon as possible.

But having those two out will not change how the Panthers approach the Flames Saturday.

"You coach the game and go play," Spoonhour said. "It doesn't really affect anybody else."

Sophomore guard Alex Austin has a positive mindset, despite the absence

of Smith and Blanford looming among the Panthers' locker room.

"It's just an opportunity for everyone else to step up," Austin said.

Austin had a game-high 18 points against Olivet Nazarene, but he will have his hands full with a 1-1 Illinois-Chicago team that Spoonhour said is loaded with guards that can shoot the basketball efficiently.

Most notably, is junior Marc Brown. He is averaging 22.5 points per game while shooting 65.4 percent on the season.

Brown is coming off a 25-point performance where he shot 11-of-14 in an 87-65 win over Roosevelt University Wednesday.

"Brown is feeling it right now," Spoonhour said. "Nobody has been able to stop him."

Four of the Flames' top five scorers are all guards. The combination of the four guards is shooting 60 percent this season (34-of-57) from the field.

But Spoonhour said behind Brown and the rest of Illinois-Chicago's guards' hot start is 6-foot-5 guard Kelsey Barlow, who has 12 assists and five steals in the Flames' first two games.

Barlow is also averaging 11 points per game, second highest on the team, and a team-high four rebounds per game.

"Barlow is big time," Spoonhour said.

Barlow is able to open up the floor with Illinois-Chicago's dribble-drive offense and allow the rest of its guards to attack the lanes, Spoonhour said.

A dribble-drive offense is a guard-

oriented offense that spreads the offensive players out and uses dribble-penetration to the basket for lay-ups or kick-out 3-point shots.

The Flames are shooting more than 50 percent from the field in their first two games, because their offense has allowed it early on.

"Their guards have driven well early this year," he said. "We need to get in front of them and stay in front of them. Nobody has been able to do that so far."

Illinois-Chicago will host Eastern at 3 p.m. Saturday at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago.

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ON THE VERGE

Nov. 15, 2013

The Daily Eastern News' weekly arts and entertainment section

'Taboo' plays come to life

Student directors stay up nights preparing Tennessee Williams' adult-themed productions

By Liz Purcell
Verge Reporter

As soon as the Tennessee Williams production is over Sunday night, the three student directors know exactly what they will do next: drink alcohol and get some much needed sleep.

"There's a reason they call it hell week," said Miranda Buob, a senior English and theater arts major.

"Directors are not happy people that week," said Richard Gus, a senior theater arts major. "And actors are the divas of that week."

Buob, Gus and Bill Stinde, a senior theater arts major, have spent most of their time this semester preparing for "An Evening of Tennessee Williams," a production of three plays written by American playwright Tennessee Williams.

"An Evening of Tennessee Williams" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Black Box Theater of the Doudna Fine Arts Center.

Williams is remembered for his "taboo" plays written about topics such as sexuality, violence and even mental illnesses.

The three plays being performed are "The Long Goodbye," directed by Buob; "The Pink Bedroom," directed by Stinde; and "These Are the Stairs You Got to Watch," directed by Gus.

"These Are the Stairs You Got to Watch" deals with sexual promiscuity, lost innocence and real life situations.

"The Long Goodbye" is about

the loss of family members and flashbacks from the past, and "The Pink Bedroom" is about infidelity.

Buob said the entire production, including the direction, costumes, lighting and props, was completed by students.

She said having students direct the plays generates a more collaborative effort within the cast rather than creating an authoritative feel.

"I think some people take it as it won't be as well done, but I take it as the opposite," Buob said. "People will be more willing to work harder when they feel like they're part of a product."

She said student directors are more in-touch with their student audience because they are all experiencing the transitional stage between college and the "real world."

Gus said the student actors have been pushed to perform better this semester than they ever have.

"I think they will see an entirely new form of acting on stage this time than they have seen before," Gus said.

The three directors have led rehearsals, researched scripts, directed actors and held meetings--all on top of their regular schoolwork.

They average about five hours of sleep per night regularly with their workload, and about three hours a night during the week before the production.

"You spend a lot of time hating your life," Buob laughed.

They are each directing their own play using the same group of student actors.



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Sean Copeland, senior journalism major, and Shelby White, a junior communication studies major, act out a scene in the Tennessee Williams play rehearsal Wednesday in the Black Box Theater.



AMANDA WILKINSON | THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

Shelby White, a junior communication studies major, and Jake Cole, a junior theater arts major, act out a scene in the Tennessee Williams play rehearsal Wednesday in the Black Box Theater.

PLAYS, PAGE 2

REVIEW



IMAGE FROM MOVIES.YAHOO.COM

All-star cast shines in ‘Last Vegas’ despite clichés, predictable story

Comedy ensues when the wild world of Las Vegas combines with the not-so-wild world of the elderly population in “Last Vegas.”

The star-studded “Last Vegas” revolves around the reunion of four childhood friends much later in their lives to celebrate the impending nuptials of the group’s lone life-long bachelor.

Michael Douglas stars as the groom-to-be Billy who believes he has finally found happiness with his 30-something-year-old girlfriend.

He invites his old friends Archie (Morgan Freeman) and Sam (Kevin Kline) to come out to Las Vegas for his bachelor party and plenty of other celebrations.

Billy has to rely on Archie and Sam to convince the last of their quartet, Paddy (Robert De Niro), to come along also because the two now have a grudge going against each other.

There are plenty of challenges facing this crew in the quest to reach and enjoy Vegas.

Archie is facing health issues and has to sneak out of the house to avoid the disapproval of his over-protective son.

Sam has reached what he thinks is a low part of his life, but has gotten a message from his wife that whatever happens in Vegas stays in Vegas.

Meanwhile Paddy isn’t nearly as excited as the rest of the crowd; he was reluctant to leave his apartment because all he ever does anymore is



Jordan Thiede
Verge Reviewer

mope around since the death of his wife.

After some deception and pleading, they all finally end up together, and the normal hijinks soon follow, complete with Billy meeting a woman closer to his age, Diana (Mary Steenburgen), who makes him doubt whether his fastly approaching wedding is a good idea.

Some of this should sound somewhat familiar to fans of another movie with a similar Vegas-related plot.

The comparisons to “The Hangover” are indeed quite valid.

The only difference between the two films, of course, is the fact that people are calling “Last Vegas” the geriatric version of “The Hangover.”

There is much more to it than crazy scenes in Las Vegas for people who are at a crisis point in their lives, though.

The biggest complaint about this movie is that it is quite predictable most of the time.

The audience knows what conflicts are going to pop up and also knows how those incidents are going to be resolved.

It definitely prescribes to a tried and true formula that so many comedies of this variety use.

This film also makes plenty of use of elderly jokes, such as the group not knowing who some of the popular celebrities of the day are and their drug of choice being Lipitor.

There is also the necessary drama brought into the picture with the ongoing battle between Billy and Paddy, which we eventually discover was over Paddy’s wife.

This gets even more complicated when another woman walks into their life, bringing back memories of a long time ago.

Despite a number of redeeming values, the strongpoint of “Last Vegas” always has to go right back to the cast in this one.

It isn’t that often where you get this many great actors of a generation together, and when it does it definitely garners a lot of attention.

Nobody in this cast is going to call “Last Vegas” the highlight of their career, but the nostalgia part does bring more fun and entertainment value to it than it otherwise would have had.

Having this lineup really elevates this film and saves it from being completely written off as a cliché-ridden attempt to amuse people.

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PLAYS, FROM PAGE 1

Though they have completely different personalities and methods of directing, they often finish one another’s sentences and tend to have the same thought processes about the production experience as a whole.

The day before the production, everything has to be set up and finished, even if it means everyone stays in Doudna all night until the sun begins to slowly creep its way over the horizon.

Gus said preparing for the play does not balance well with his other obligations, but that is to be expected.

“I don’t balance it. It doesn’t balance,” Gus said. “Really, if you are completely balanced in college, it means it’s too easy for you and you need to go and get a job, immediately. If at one point in your week you’re not like FML, then what are you doing here?”

After the production meeting, Gus said he had to work on homework for two hours, then go to re-

hearsal for four hours, and finally go home and do more homework for two more hours—if he manages to stay awake that long—which he said is not always likely.

He said having the responsibility of directing an entire play is “a bit much” to handle.

Buob said theater majors are the “pillars of time management” because their classes tend to include a lot of outside work, but Gus said assignments sometimes go unfinished.

He hesitates to decide if the effort is worth it or not, but he ultimately said the hard work pays off.

“Yes. It always is. It always is, once you’re done,” Gus said. “Until then, it’s going to feel like you signed your life away and you need to be shot. Once it’s all done, it’s rainbows and bunnies and elephants.”

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Rapper Huey Mack to perform hits at Friends & Co.

By Stephanie Markham
Verge Editor

At 21 years old, rapper Huey Mack has toured with various musicians, recorded an album that reached No.8 on the Billboard charts and released music videos that made MTV.

Despite his success, Mack said making music began for him as a joke.

As a high school student in his native West Virginia, Mack decided to write a parody song about his school's football team, and a year later he started recording songs in a studio in Pittsburg.

Once he put out a few songs, people started to listen, Mack said.

"I don't really know what propelled me to do it," he said.

Mack will be performing at 7 p.m. Sunday in The Dungeon of Friends and Co. Sigma Phi Epsilon is hosting the event, which costs \$10 for presale tickets and \$30 for

meet and greet tickets.

The rapper was in college for business and marketing, but he dropped out to focus on his music career.

He said that by his junior year, he booked his first tour while he was still enrolled in classes

"I was like, oh I'll be able to do both; I'll take online classes," he said. "Hotels don't have Wi-Fi, and we don't have Wi-Fi on the road, so I was gone for a month and I was kind of like, this has to happen."

Mack said his music definitely fits into the hip-hop and rap categories, but he likes to think of it as alternative as well.

He said the songwriting style on his recent album "Pretending Perfection" takes influence from bands like the indie and electronic group Passion Pit.

Mack said his live music is piano-driven and features some guitar and violin, but most of it consists of sounds generated in the studio.

The recording process for "Pre-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rapper Huey Mack will perform at 7 p.m. Sunday at Friends and Co.

tending Perfection" took seven months, during which Mack re-

corded three songs in New York, nine in Boston and one in his hometown.

"When I did nine in Boston, we were in a studio with no windows, 15 hours a day from like noon to 6 a.m.," he said.

When Mack found out his album made the Billboard charts, he said he did not feel any different.

"I was happy, but it wasn't like life-changing, 'holy crap I'm on billboard,'" he said. "It was kind of just 'this is where I'm at, and I want to be No.1 now.'"

Mack said most of the songs on the album are feel-good and inspirational, but some are more emotional and personal.

"I wanted to cover every aspect of what was going on with me you know, dropping out of school to make music, the times where I felt like I didn't want to do this anymore, the times where I felt cocky about it," he said. "My mother has cancer, and there's a song about her on it."

He said he has had many experiences with fans telling him how much they were touched by the content of his songs.

"I've seen tattoos of my lyrics on people, and you know people tell me how my music saved their lives and how they are dealing with certain problems like their mother having cancer like mine has and how my song helped them through that, and it's just little things like that, they really get to me," he said.

After having toured with musicians like Mike Stud, Snoop Dogg and Kendrick, Mack said what he wants from shows is for people to have fun.

"I want people to hear my story, feel inspired by it, want to party to it," he said. "I just want everything. I want there to be something for everybody."

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Ned Van Go to bring mix of rock, country music to Top of the Roc

By Stephanie Markham
Verge Editor

Despite growing up in the country-music haven of south central Kentucky, Ned Hill always preferred the heavier sound of rock 'n' roll.

Not until he became older did the Ned Van Go singer and guitar player learn to appreciate the southern appeal.

Hill started Ned Van Go in 2001 in Nashville after going through a few band breakups; meanwhile, a different style was taking root in the background.

The band, which also includes Bob Grant on lead guitar and backing vocals, Reggie Las Vegas on drums, and Viva Zapata on bass, will play at 9:30 p.m. Friday at The Top of the Roc.

Ned Van Go melds different elements of county and rock to create its sound, from the energetic, punk guitar style to the country tone in Hill's vocals.

The band's influences range from The Ramones to Buck Owens and Steve Earl, Hill said.

However, he said he remembers disliking the country music he heard when he was younger.

"It's funny, growing up I was always a rock 'n' roll guy," he said. "Grand Ole Opry was always in the background, and I said, 'I hate that music, that old bluegrass and roots music.' Now, I can't get enough of it."

The band's most recent album, "Lost in Trouble," incorporates aspects of rock 'n' roll, country and bluegrass.

Hill said the bluegrass element represents the music he finds himself listening to more and more lately.

"That's something I would nev-



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Ned Van Go, including Bob Grant, guitarist; Ned Hill, vocalist; Viva Zapata, bassist; and Reggie Las Vegas, drummer, will play at 9:30 p.m. Friday at The Top of the Roc.

er listen to when I was a kid," he said. "Now, I just find a relief when I hear it."

He said he knows quite a few older musicians and some younger ones who began playing punk or hard rock and ended up playing acoustic and bluegrass music.

"I know so many people that have started these old-time folk and bluegrass bands that used to be punk rockers," he said. "It's hard to find one that's not."

Though the fast tempo of bluegrass entices many punk guitar players, Hill said it was the style of lyrics that drew him to bluegrass.

"Some of those old mountain, country lyrics, there's a certain poetry to it that I've never really appreciated when I was younger," he said.

Hill said the terminology used in bluegrass is simple yet poetic, which are characteristics he does not think are present in Nashville's current country music scene.

"That sense of poetry in the lyrics, it's just gone," he said. "You don't hear that."

Hill said the topics of Ned Van Go's songs include his small-town background, relationships and whatever happens to be on

his mind.

One song from "Lost in Trouble" is titled "Poor White Trash Southern Reputation Blues."

This song, Hill said, is about how people from the south sometimes take pride in their ignorance.

"We do all these things that people would consider stupid," he said. "Sometimes, they are stupid. That song there is just kind of a social statement that I don't think we should take pride in that."

Hill said every record should have one or two songs that challenge the listener, even if the listener does not like what the lyrics are saying.

As far as live shows, Hill said the band gives a lot of energy and leaves little time between songs, especially when playing electric as opposed to acoustic.

"We try to put out a lot of energy, but not too much," he said. "When you get older and start jumping around too much, you just look like an idiot. We try to put a lot of intensity into it without scaring the hell out of people."

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REVIEWS

'Thor: The Dark World' soars beyond 'Phase 2'

In 2008, Marvel Studios began laying the groundwork for a film series like no other. In competition with Warner Bros. and the famed Chris Nolan “Dark Knight” trilogy, Marvel released five films between 2008 and 2012, including: “Iron Man,” “The Incredible Hulk,” “Iron Man II,” “Thor” and “Captain America.” This culminated into what some would consider the greatest superhero movie of all time, “The Avengers.”

We are now a year into Marvel Studios’ proposed “Phase 2,” and the reaction so far has been lackluster. “Iron Man 3” concluded the trilogy with Tony Stark ambiguously driving off into the sunset from his dilapidated mansion.

This is when “Thor: The Dark World” starts with Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and the Warriors’ Three fighting on the world Vaneheim. By this time, Thor has spent the last year defending and protecting the nine realms from hostile invasions from dark forces.

Loki (Tom Hiddleston) on the other hand, having pretty much destroyed New York City and tried to rule Earth and its inhabitants, has been sentenced to the Asgardian dungeons for the next several thousand years.

That is of course, until Jane Foster (Natalie Portman) discovers an ancient evil located in the cavernous depths of Asgard, the aether. This is our introduction to the manifestation of evil itself, Malekith (Christopher Eccleston, aka the 9th Doctor in Doctor Who).

Malekith, a dark elf in the realm of Svartaheim, is shown 5,000 years prior trying to use the aether to shroud the nine worlds in darkness during the convergence of the nine realms. The convergence is shown



By Sean Copeland
Verge Reviewer

as a time in which the worlds are capable of being crossed effortlessly through time and space. King Borr (Odin’s father, Thor’s grandfather) locks it away in the hopes that no one can ever find it, meanwhile Malekith retreats into hibernation until the next convergence occurs.

Portman is infected by the aether before Thor flies down to earth and takes her to Asgard. Malekith, upon discovering the stolen aether, invades Asgard in search of the doomsday weapon, seeking to rule the nine realms as he had tried to do before, through darkness. Thor then enlists the aid of his brother Loki to stop Malekith and the dark elves from destroying the nine realms, including Earth around it.

Really what this movie should’ve been called was, “Loki: Asgard’s Dark Knight.” Loki is by far the most dynamic character in the series. Personally, while everyone is waiting for his so-called “redemption,” I just want to see his malevolence spiral out of control. From impersonating Captain America to his frighteningly awesome illusions, you have no idea what’s coming next.

Chris Hemsworth and Anthony Hopkins, as Thor and Odin, certainly played to their strengths and created an even deeper father-son relationship. Both characters have looked past their grief of “losing Loki” in the first film either in spir-

it or physically losing him to the destruction of the bifrost.

Director Alan Taylor (“Game of Thrones”) made some interesting choices in regards to Thor’s love life. The love triangle surrounding Thor, Jane Foster, and Sif creates an interesting conflict for a super-powered being, he can’t throw a hammer at that, now can he?

As far as villains go, not everyone can be Loki. However, Malekith brings the film closer to a Viking-Norse themed war than the first film did. The motives are there and the reality of evil, though often undercut by humor, is still very real particularly in a scene involving all the major players on Svartaheim. Just keep your eyes open kids.

Heimdall (Idris Elba) and Dr. Erik Selvig (Stellan Skarsgard) also had their big moments to shine, one such moment being an epic sequence of events with Heimdall taking down an entire Elven spacecraft with no more than two pocketknives and a sword.

Though Marvel seems to be relying more on the strength of the films and their content, the last few “secret” scenes in “Phase 2” have yielded very little about the sequel to the Avengers, The Age of Ultron.

Hopefully, as we get closer to that release date we’ll be able to see more hints at the more major themes of the second half of “Phase 2” and some potential players in “Phase 3.” But stay for that scene regardless, because it looks like this will tie into one of Marvel’s upcoming projects as the underdog of “Phase 2”; The Guardians of the Galaxy.

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IMAGE FROM WALL.ALPHACODERS.COM



IMAGE FROM YOUTUBE.COM

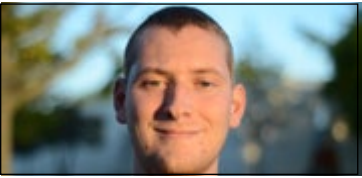
'Call of Duty: Ghosts' improves on multiplayer, plot

The “Call of Duty” franchise has been a holiday juggernaut in the video game world, and “Call of Duty: Ghosts,” through the addition of new game modes and the most engaging story mode to date, does not disappoint.

The campaign lasts about six hours depending on the time spent collecting mission files and the difficulty.

Although short, the campaign contains an action-packed story about two brothers who join the Ghost Squad, the same squad their dad is a part of.

Each mission contains a major set piece that really changes how



Josh Jones
Verge Reviewer

you play the game. Whether the player is a dog or driving a tank, these set pieces keep the gameplay fresh and entertaining.

The main reason people pick up “Call of Duty” is for the multiplayer, and “Ghosts” succeeds greatly. Old favorites are back like “team domination” and “kill confirmed,”

and new types join them: “cranked” and “grind.”

“Cranked” is like team death match, but after each kill scored, the player has to make another kill before 30 seconds otherwise they instantly die. This mode allows for more fast-paced game play and discourages against staying in one place for too long. “Grind” plays like “kill confirmed,” but not only does the player have to collect dog tags, they also have to deposit it into a bank for the score to count.

“Squads” is a traditional take on “Call of Duty” without the intense competition that multiplayer offers. Instead, players face off against

the computer in different modes. Though slightly easier, the computer still poses a challenge to the player.

Players also have the option to take their squads online and face off against other players and their squads. There are also the more traditional waves of enemy modes where players must work together to fend off waves of incoming soldiers.

“Extinction” brings aliens into the mix as players must achieve objectives while fighting off aggressive hordes. The aliens move in very erratic ways making them much more challenging than traditional foes.

Solider customization has also improved with new ways to change your play style, whether you like to go out guns blazing or try a more stealthy approach, there are plenty of ways to make your solider fit your play style.

“Ghosts” does not change the formula for “Call of Duty” games, but improves upon what past games have done. With the inclusion of several new game types and a compelling story, Ghosts offers plenty of entertainment for the long-term fan.

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